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An oviduct egg of the Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*

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Medway & Wells (1976) give 2 breeding records for *Cuculus micropterus* in the Malay Peninsula, both involving juvenile specimens, taken in July and September respectively. They could find no records of eggs or nestlings and state that the hosts of this cuckoo are unknown in Malaya.

On 29 April 1964 I shot a ♀ of the resident race *C. m. concretus* as it flew over a path in primary forest at canopy height just before dusk, north of Kota Tinggi in the state of Johore (c. 1° 50' N, 103° 55' E), altitude under 150m a.s.l. The oviduct contained a fully formed and pigmented egg, unfortunately broken by the shot. However, I noted that the shape appeared to be blunt on the broad pole and the colour of the yolk (surprisingly for a cuckoo) I recorded as 'deep orange'. The colour of the egg is very pale pinkish-grey, over which small spots of dark liver-brown (largest spots about 1 mm) are scattered rather regularly. Underlying these are less numerous and smaller spots of grey, all somewhat more concentrated around the broadest part of the egg. The egg has been repaired and now measures approximately 20 × 15 mm, certainly substantially less than its original size. It is not unlike some eggs laid by *Dicrurus* species.

The female has wing length 165 mm, tail 144 mm and anterior margin of nostril to bill tip 17 mm. It may not be in definitive adult plumage as the breast is rufous-buff and barred dark brown, and the tail is in irregular moult, the left and right outer rectrices being respectively 45 and 34 mm shorter than the central pair. The third and fourth right rectrices are 6 mm shorter than the second. Rufous notches are present on the webs of the central rectrices, evidently also indicating subadult plumage (Medway & Wells). The iris is brown, the gape, eyelids and feet yellow, as also is the hind claw, the other claws being horn-brown. The upper mandible and the cutting edge of the lower mandible are horn, the remainder of the bill grey. The stomach was packed with green and other caterpillars.

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